

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 182574

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. SOUTH AFRICA AFTER SOWETO

EMBASSY PRETORIA FORWARDS ITS OBSERVATIONS ON THE EXTENT
AND SIGNIFICANCE OF VIOLENCE IN SOUTH AFRICA SINCE THE
SOWETO RIOTS:

--THE SPORADIC DEMONSTRATIONS AND ACTS OF VIOLENCE
THAT HAVE OCCURRED APPEAR TO BE MORE A RIPPLE EFFECT
THAN A MAJOR NEW TREND.

--THERE IS EVIDENCE, HOWEVER, OF INCREASED ORGANIZA-
TION BEHIND RECENT EVENTS, PROBABLY ATTRIBUTABLE TO
STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS.

--EFFECTS OF THE ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN ON BLACKS AND GOV-
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ERNMENT PRESSURE FOR RELOCATION OF BLACK LABOR IN THE

"HOMELANDS" COULD WELL SPARK NEW INCIDENTS.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE GOVERNMENT IS TAKING THE SITUATION SERIOUSLY AND SEEKING TO PREVENT FURTHER DISRUPTION. (CONFIDENTIAL) PRETORIA 3230, 7/22.)

2. PORTUGAL PLANS FOR CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT

EMBASSY LISBON REPORTS THAT THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL HAS BEGUN THINKING ABOUT THE PROBLEM OF TRANSITION TO A CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT. RC MEMBER SOUSA E CASTRO TOLD THE EMBASSY JULY 21:

--DESPITE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN "OPERATIONALS" AND "POLITICIANS," THE RC IS NOW MORE UNIFIED THAN EVER.

--WAYS TO EASE THE MOVE BACK TO THE BARRACKS OF MILITARY MEN WHO HAVE OCCUPIED HIGH-LEVEL CIVILIAN JOBS ARE NOW BEING CONSIDERED.

--RESTRUCTURING OF THE ARMED FORCES IS A PRIORITY TASK BUT WILL TAKE YEARS TO COMPLETE.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE NEW GOVERNMENT WILL HAVE ITS HANDS FULL WITH ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND DOES NOT NEED THE ADDITIONAL WORRY OF DISGRUNTLED MILITARY MEN. SOUSA E CASTRO'S COMMENTS INDICATE THE ARMED FORCES' LEADERSHIP IS AWARE OF THE PROBLEM AND IS PREPARED TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT. (CONFIDENTIAL) LISBON 4971, 7/22.) ROBINSON

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